

UNIVERSITY  
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LIBRARY SCIENCE  
STUDY HALL

# THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

FORMERLY "THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT"  
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE A.A.L.

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MAY

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# THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians.  
(Section of the Library Association)

Edited by A. C. Jones, Hornsey Public Library

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MAY, 1953

## A.A.L. COUNCIL CONSIDERS L.A. BYELAW PROPOSALS\*

*Unanimous support for Haugh-Callander motion—  
Approval for proposed postal voting—Dissatisfaction  
with L.A. Council's new subscription scale.*

Early this year the Library Association Council asked all branches and sections to consider a *Memorandum on Constitutional Changes*. Having considered their opinions, the Library Association Council then produced the motions which stand in its name on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting. It seemed logical, therefore, that branches and sections should consider the Council's proposals and see how far they met their own views. A Special Meeting of the A.A.L. Council was therefore called for March 26th to give the proposals the careful consideration they deserve.

The discussion was long and detailed, and the results at first may seem surprising; because, although the Library Association proposals (numbers 6 to 9 on the agenda) went *part* of the way to meet the A.A.L. views expressed in February, it was felt *unanimously* that the Haugh-Callander motion (number 10 on the agenda) was a more acceptable alternative.

The main difference between the Haugh-Callander motion and the Bye-law proposal of the Library Association Council is the absence in the former of Past Presidents and Branch Councillors. The A.A.L. had suggested that the representation of Past Presidents should be restricted to the immediate holder of the office only; but they had originally been inclined to favour the retention of Branch Councillors providing they were elected by a method more acceptable than the present one. The reasons for this change in opinion are:

- (1) The size of the Council which would be appointed under the proposed Bye-laws;
- (2) The fact that although the number of National Councillors would be increased, they would still be a minority;
- (3) The cumbersome and expensive method now proposed for the election of Branch Councillors.

It was therefore decided that the Haugh-Callander motion would give a stronger and more workable Council, and that motion 10 was

\*For details of motions to be submitted to the L.A. A.G.M., refer to L.A.R., March, 1953, pp. 90—93.

to be preferred to motions 6 to 7. Those who have attended previous annual general meetings where Bye-law changes have been proposed (this is by no means the first) will know that amendments to Bye-laws cannot be accepted. It is obvious, therefore, that anyone wishing to support the Haugh-Callander motion, which is item 10 on the agenda, must oppose items 6 to 7. On the other hand, motion number 9 (postal voting) seems worthy of unqualified support.

The Council's original proposal to introduce a new scale of subscriptions did not come as a surprise to the A.A.L. who, less than two years before, had expressed concern at L.A. finances, only to be told to mind their own business, which, in equally difficult circumstances, they can claim to have done very well.

The A.A.L. Council does not have in its membership that narrow-minded section of the profession who insist that the Association's coat should be cut according to its present cloth. On the contrary, whilst they have instructed their representatives to press for as little increase as possible in the rate of subscriptions and urged them to continue to press for economy, they have at all times indicated that this should be done without reducing the activities of sections or the educational activities of the Library Association. What the A.A.L. Council wishes to see is a strong, well-organised professional association, giving adequate services to all its members.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Library Association, whose gentlemanly and understanding conduct at Bournemouth and in subsequent negotiations with branches and sections has increased his stature at a time when he was occupying the most vulnerable of all positions, showed in the *L.A. Record* before the Bournemouth Conference, clearly stated in his speech from the platform at Bournemouth, and has since underlined, the need for extra income. Indeed, it is strange that librarians whose own library budgets have risen, and whose own salaries have been increased, are apparently unable to grasp the elementary fact that the Library Association's expenditure is governed by the same conditions.

The A.A.L. Council, however, did not agree that the subscription increases proposed last year were completely sound, and had recommended to the Library Association Council, in commenting upon the Memorandum, that annual subscriptions should be more equitably spread and that there should be only the minimum increases necessary. The A.A.L. Council were informed that a private member's amendment (referred to elsewhere in this issue) was being put forward, and it appeared to them to be more acceptable than the Council's proposed scales. The major objection to these proposed scales is the high rate of subscription charged to some members in comparison with others. For example, after her eighteenth birthday, the subscription of a provincial girl will rise from one guinea to two guineas! Indeed, it would seem that the scales have been calculated on the think-of-a-number-and-double-it principle, because the next highest rate is four guineas, and would have to be paid by a provincial male of twenty-six as well as by those local government members in A.P.T.IV.

Concern was also expressed at the inability of the Library Asso-

igation Council to honour within a reasonable space of time its decision to publish a report on welfare and working conditions. The "Tighe Report," having been agreed between the appointed representatives of the Library Association and the A.A.L., has been bogged down in the technicalities of procedure and distribution and is, at the moment, "referred back": in other words, it is now in what we have too often come to regard as the usual state of suspended animation.

It may be that the member reading this is unable to get to Llandudno, and at present there is no means of his opinion being expressed—although the proposed postal voting will, if carried, make this possible *in future years*. The only thing to do, therefore, is to make your views known to those people who are attending; lend this copy of the *Assistant* to your chief or your chairman, and, if the Bye-laws are revised under the Haugh-Callander plan, to vote "in the fall" for the right people. In the current *Library Review* Mr. Hutchings says, "Recollect that constitution changing is a tilting at windmills; executive strength is what gives an institution its vitality." The trouble with this windmill is that it just doesn't turn—and must therefore be overhauled. We must also raise the wind.

W.T.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### L.A. SUBSCRIPTIONS

W. TYNEMOUTH, F.L.A., *Hon.*

*Secretary, A.A.L.*, writes:

Comment has been made on the fact that last year the Secretary of the Association of Assistant Librarians supported the Library Association Council's subscription proposal. This, as has been explained, was the result of a compromise between two sides of a committee endeavouring to arrive at a unanimous decision. The scale finally approved was not entirely to my liking, and would have brought in a larger income than the minimum I and others thought necessary, but it was very much lower than the scale originally thought of by the Honorary Officers and was actually much nearer our idea of what the increased income should be than theirs.

Because I no longer feel bound to support the Council's proposal, I am moving an amendment at Llandudno which will be more in keeping with the A.A.L.'s recommendation to the Library Association Council "that annual subscriptions should be more equitably spread, and that there should be only minimum increases necessary."

My proposal is that the scale should be:—

	£	s.	d.
Honorary Fellows ...	None		
Members not exceeding	5	5	0
Members receiving a salary of £1,000 per annum or over ...	5	5	0
Members receiving a salary of £750 to £999 ...	4	14	6
Members receiving a salary of £525 to £749 ...	4	4	0
Members receiving a salary of £375 to £524 ...	3	3	0
Members receiving a salary of £200 to £374 ...	2	2	0
Members receiving a salary of less than £200 ...	1	1	0
Retired Members, etc., as Library Association scale			

The advantages of this amendment, in my opinion, are that it avoids the ridiculous situation suggested by the other proposal, whereby all boys joining the service in the General Division scale of salaries at the age of 16 would be automatically on the two guinea rate; it breaks up the far too wide ranges of salaries in the Library Association proposal, and

does not expect chartered librarians to pay a subscription because they are qualified, until that qualification has itself begun to pay dividends. The salary range of £375 to £599, for example, includes men in the General Division and very senior assistants (minimum qualification F.L.A.) at the foot of Grade V.

Restrictions in the L.A. services to members have already become necessary, and to continue to draw on balances is fair neither to those who built them up nor to those who will have to replace them. To balance our budget is our responsibility. I am moving this amendment, because it seems possible that the Council's proposals may be defeated outright: partly because they are inequitable, and partly because there is a lack of confidence in the Council. A flat refusal to raise subscriptions would imperil the Library Association: I believe that my amendment will give an increased and adequate income to an active Council, which next year will enjoy the confidence of, and be elected by, the majority of the membership.

**Mr. W. G. SMITH, Senior Administration Assistant, Tottenham P.L.,** writes:

A year ago the word "democracy" was whispered to the Library Association Council and, after all this time, the March issue of the *Record* (which only just missed appearing on the more appropriate first of April) produces a plan. And what a plan—

democracy amok, elections galore!

Even at present we have almost too many elections. I, for example, vote annually to elect people to the L.A. Council, my Branch Committee, the A.A.L. Council, my A.A.L. Division, the Reference and Special Libraries Committee, and my regional Group of that Section—a total of six elections. Now, if the L.A. proposals in item 6 on the Llandudno A.G.M. agenda are accepted, I may have to add three more to this total (one election for a Branch Councillor, and one for a Councillor from each of the two Sections to which I belong). In all, this will mean nine elections with nine different sets of voting instructions within a period of about two months. What confusion—I can just imagine trying to explain how the L.A. operates to a new junior assistant ("Now, the seventh set of ballot papers are for . . .")

It is almost unbelievable that these proposals are the result of a year's work by our L.A. Council; a year in which it was *instructed* to produce a scheme giving a majority of Councillors elected by the members at large. It is fortunate that Messrs. Haugh and Callander have submitted an alternative motion for our consideration at Llandudno. Compare the concise and unambiguous wording of their proposals with the verbal smoke-screen put out by the L.A., and let the bus-loads roll to Llandudno so that we, as individual members of the L.A., may vote out the Council's muddle-headed scheme.

#### INAUGURAL MEETING

This year's Inaugural Meeting will take place at Chaucer House on Thursday, May 14th, at 7.30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Sir Frank Soskice, Q.C., P.C., M.P., who will discuss "The Value of Reading." It is hoped that as many members as possible will be present on this occasion.

#### A.A.L. SESSION, LLANDUDNO

The A.A.L. paper at this year's L.A. Conference will be read by J. W. Carter, F.L.A. His subject will be "The Effect of our Assistance to Readers".



# THE USE OF FILMS AND FILM-STRIPS

## IN TRAINING FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

by WALTER F. BROOME, F.L.A.

AT A RECENT conference of educationists, Sir John Maud, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, said: "It is nonsense to try to dismiss visual aids as a luxury . . . ; you cannot disguise their importance by calling them a frill." The training of librarians has not included so much use of the type of visual aids to which Sir John was referring as some would have liked. This has not been the fault of the profession nor its educationists, but has been due rather to the paucity of suitable material. During the last few years, however, a greater proportion of films and film-strips that librarians can use in training has become available and the need for their use has intensified.

Education for librarianship varies so widely in its type that a word on the actual physical handling and presentation of films, filmstrips, film-loops and slides may not be amiss. There are two methods of projection in the classroom: (a) in a darkened room, and (b) in a semi-darkened or undarkened room. The projection of any material used to illustrate a lecture at which students are expected to take notes can never reasonably take place in a darkened room. The introduction of the atmosphere of the cinema by projecting in darkness is thought by many to be quite foreign to the effective use of the projected image as a wholly satisfactory aid to instruction. To project in a semi-darkened or undarkened room is generally more convenient and more effective as well as causing much less dislocation of the class. There is very little difficulty with modern apparatus in front-projecting a small bright picture which will not lose much in contrast in a suitably semi-darkened room. That is to say, a room in which sufficient general light remains to enable students to continue note taking. A method to be preferred, however, is to obtain, or make, rear-projection equipment. This equipment has the added advantage of allowing the full control of the projected image to remain with the lecturer. Bearing in mind that a small bright picture is always better than a large dull one, whether front- or rear-projected, the comparatively small screen of the equipment listed below will prove most effective in undarkened rooms. A rear-projected picture 26in. wide will be as effective in a class-room of normal dimensions as a front-projected picture of 40in. wide. A point to bear in mind when using rear-projection is that images are normally more "directional" than those front-projected on to a white screen. This will require the lecturer to ensure that *all* his class can see a bright image.

### *Some Makers of Rear-projection Equipment.*

"Daybright back projection unit" by Messrs. Stableford Screens, Ltd., 1, Stebbing Street, Latimer Road, London, W.11.

"E.S.A. rear projection screen" by The Educational Supply Association, Ltd., Esavian House, 181, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

"The Brooklands Unit" by The Perforated Front Projection Screen Co., Ltd., 43-49, Higham Street, London, E.17.

"New Westone Daylight Rear Projection Screen" by Messrs. Andrew Smith Harkness, Ltd., 96-100, Kensal Road, London, W.10.

Films and film-strips, etc., cannot be quite so easily used by isolated students. If they have access to the equipment, there seems to be here an opportunity for the Staff Guild to organise a local screening of suitable

material to supplement correspondence courses and private study. Where no Staff Guild exists (and even occasionally when it does), and there is access to a film-strip projector or a micro-film reader, film strips could be a very useful complement to individual study. Cheap hiring services exist for some of the film-strips listed hereunder.

Lecturers who use visual-aids will need to take care that they introduce them as an integral part of the organization of their lectures and turn to them much as they would turn to the blackboard to illustrate a point. They will generally find that the use of the projected image to illustrate their own working will require very careful selection of visual material which cannot normally be done quickly. The use of 2in. by 2in. slides facilitates this selection, but it is also possible to select frames from strips similarly.

It is always desirable to avoid the "we are going to have a film" approach to the use of visual-aids on celluloid. The class should be conditioned to the introduction of this type of illustration as a normal and natural sequence of instruction.

It may be necessary at times to use film and film-strip in the same period. This will be infrequent, but when it is done it should be done only to complement the one by the other for a special purpose.

Sound films can scarcely be used to weave into a lecturer's own working unless he can introduce the voice of the sound-track as the voice of a guest lecturer. It is often useful to remember that the sound-track of a film can be switched off at will; although, of course, no attempt must ever be made to project a sound film on a silent projector to achieve the same result. On many occasions the silent or mute film may well be the best.

After very careful consideration, it may be believed that a film-strip can be projected and accompanied by the reading of the printed notes supplied by the maker and be of use to the class. There may be some truth in this, but I firmly believe that it pays to re-edit the notes to suit a lecturer's own style and to present the commentary from memory with vitality. Have the notes at hand just in case the need arises.

A list of films, film-strips and film-loops which might usefully find a place in the curriculum of training for librarianship is printed below. Addresses of the distributors are given at the end of the list.

## FILMSTRIPS.

### *Book Production.*

"Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record, M.A., in 5 parts. 197f. (Common Ground).

A comprehensive survey in detail with excellent notes. Specially recommended.

Part 1. General history. 36f. General account from Assyrian to modern times.

Part 2. Paper making. 36f.

Part 3. Printing. 43f. Letter press printing—machinery and processes.

Part 4. Illustration processes. 44f. Omits colour printing.

Part 5. Bookbinding and publishing." 38f.

"Books." 21f. (B.I.F.)

Book production throughout its processes.

"How a book is made." 10f. (B.I.F.)

A very elementary introduction.

### *Bookbinding.*

- "Bookbinding," by Stanley H. Cox. 28f. ("Daily Mail").  
A practical account of simple bookbinding.  
"Bookbinding and publishing." 38f. (Common Ground).  
(Part 5 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).

### *Illustration Processes.*

- "Illustration processes." 44f. (Common Ground).  
(Part 4 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).  
Omits colour printing.  
"Lithography," by Yevonde and Bromfield. 43f. (E.F.V.A.).  
A detailed account of the process.  
"Medieval woodcuts," by S. Savage. (Common Ground).  
The art of printing from wooden blocks from 12—16th century.  
"Modern wood engravings," by S. Savage. 29f. (Common Ground).  
From late 18th century to the present.  
"Wood engraving." 42f. (Unicorn Head).  
History and technique.

### *Library Science.*

- "Let's join the Library." 24f. (Finsbury Public Libraries).  
An introduction suitable for 7—12 years of age.  
"Library adventure," by J. Haywood and R. F. Vollans. 36f. (E.P. Ltd.).  
Suitable for 12—15 years of age.  
"Library buildings," by Walter F. Broome. 36f. (B.E.F.).  
"Library co-operation," by Walter F. Broome. 25f. (B.E.F.).  
"Rural libraries," by Walter F. Broome. 36f. (B.E.F.).  
The first two strips are especially suitable for use when introducing the Public Library Service to school children.

### *Local Government.*

- "Local Councils." (Educational Productions).  
"Local Government." (NALGO).  
"Local Government." (V.I.S.).  
"Local Government, History of." (Educational Productions).

### *Newspaper Production.*

- "How your local newspaper is produced." 35f. ("Bolton Evening News").  
Free loan. A competent strip showing all processes.

### *Paper Making.*

- "How paper is made to-day." 30df. (E.F.V.A.).  
(Part of Visual Unit, "Printing and paper making").  
"Paper making." 36f. (Common Ground).  
(Part 2 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).  
"Paper making." In 2 parts. 54f. (E.F.V.A. and "Daily Mail").  
Part 1. "Manufacture and use of paper." 26f.  
Part 2. "Manufacture of hand-made paper." 28f.  
"Paper making in Japan." 22df. (E.F.V.A.).  
(Part of Visual Unit, "Printing and paper making").

### *Printing.*

- "A history of the written word." 36f. ("Daily Mail").  
Magdalenian painting to printing. Age 12+.  
"History of type design." 47f. (Common Ground).  
Well selected to show development.  
"Printing." 43f. (Common Ground).  
(Part 3 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).  
Letterpress printing—machinery and processes.

"Technical development of letterpress printing." 21df. (E.F.V.A.).  
(Part of Visual Unit, "Printing and paper making").

"William Caxton." 36f. (V.I.S.).

Gutenberg and his associates. Caxton in Netherlands.  
Specimens of the work of Caxton, etc.

#### *Publishing.*

"Book binding and publishing." 38f. (Common Ground).

(Part 5 of "Book production in Europe," by P. D. Record).

### FILMS.

#### *Book Production.*

(See also *Printing, Publishing, etc.*).

"Chapter and verse." 25m. (National Book League).

Traces development of writing from the time of the cave man to printing, binding and publication.

"Printing and Bookbinding." 15m. (Wallace Heaton).

In spite of its title it deals only with printing.

#### *Bookbinding.*

"Club Magazine No. 29." 5m. (G.B.).

This short sequence included in a larger film of one reel gives an excellent background approach to the subject.

"How to bind a book." 30m. (Dryad, Leicester). Silent.

Shows in great detail how to bind a book from the craftsman's viewpoint. Especially prepared for craft teaching.

"New books for old." 45m. (Dunn and Wilson, Ltd.). Silent. Last reel in colour.

Shows work of a large bindery working for Public Libraries on a commercial basis.

#### *Heating and Ventilating.*

"It's in the air." [Air conditioning.] (Hall and Kay, Ltd.).

#### *Illustration Processes.*

"Lithography." 12m. (B.I.F.). Silent.

An account of the principles and methods of lithography; see also filmstrip of same title.

"Magazine magic." 43m. (U.S.I.S.). Colour.

See under *Publishing*—part of the film suitable.

#### *Industry.*

"Resources discovered." (A.A.L.).

A film (in production) to show the extent of the valuable information available in the Public Library Service to Industry.

#### *Libraries: General surveys.*

"Books on wheels." 14m. (Can. F.B.).

Toronto Public Library service.

"Index to progress." 23m. (A.A.L.).

The Public Library service in England and Wales.

Intended as an indication of the facilities which might be expected by the public from a well-run Public Library.

"Knowledge unlimited." 10m. (N.S. Wales P.L. (L.A.)).

A propaganda film for increase in public book services in N.S.W. Also useful for its indication that industry can benefit from the Public Library service.

- "Library of Congress." 20m. (C.F.L. or U.S.I.S.).  
 Gives general outline of the Library. Rather too much "padding" for use in classroom. A silent version has been made by the writer (With the kind consent of the U.S. Government) which omits what is not essential to training.
- "Montclair Library." 23m. (Finchley P.L.).
- "New chapters." 14m. (Can. F.B.). Colour.
- "News Magazine No. 12." 7m. (U.S.I.S.).  
 New York Public Library.
- "Not by books alone." 20m. (U.S.I.S.). Colour.  
 Rochester, U.S.A., Public Library service.

#### *Local Government.*

- "Changes in the franchise." 10m. (G.B.).
- "County Government." 30m. (U.S.I.S.).  
 Election, local government officials, education, etc., in America.
- "18th Century Election." 9m. (Gateway). Colour.
- "Local Government." 10m. (C.F.L.).  
 Suitable for background study for Entrance students.
- "New Councillor." 21m. (C.F.L. UK 1234).  
 Suitable for Entrance students.
- "Ratepayer's money." 8m. (G.B.).
- "Your local council." 11m. (G.B.).  
 Suitable for background study for Entrance students.
- See also list in *Progress*, Summer 1952.

#### *Newspaper Production.*

- "Newspaper story." 20m. (B.I.F.).
- See also "Home town paper." under *Publishing*.

#### *Paper Making.*

- "Gift of Ts'ai Lun." 20m. (U.S.I.S.).
- "Paper." 11m. (Ency. Brit.; E.F.V.A.).  
 Teaching notes (Elementary).
- "Paper chain." 30m. (Wiggins, Teape and Co., or G.B.).
- "Story of paper making." 14m. (E.F.V.A.).  
 Elementary and basic.
- "Tree to paper." 10m. (B.I.F.).

#### *Printing.*

- "Books for everyone." 10m. (U.S.I.S.). See under *Publishing*.
- "Linotype, printing and folding machines." 3m. (B.E.F.). Silent.
- "Modern Linotypes." 30m. (Linotype and Machinery Ltd.).  
 Operation and application of standard models.
- "Story of printing." 45m. (E.F.V.A.).  
 Very good production but elementary; i.e., it sets out to describe the processes to school children and moves rather slowly for adults. Very useful. There are also valuable wall charts and some small three dimensional aids which go to make up this Unit.  
 See also the filmstrip section.
- "Type speaks." 26m. (U.S.I.S.). Colour.  
 History of movable type *excluding* Caxton—designing, casting, distributing type.

#### *Publishing.*

- "Books." 7m. (B.I.F.). Silent.  
 Factory processes in production—see also filmstrip of same title.
- "Books for everyone." 10m. (U.S.I.S.).  
 Typesetting, printing and binding—paper bound books.

- "Home town paper." 20m. (C.F.L. C258).  
Part played by local newspaper in the life of a small Canadian agricultural town.
- "Magazine magic." 43m. (U.S.I.S.). Colour.  
Provides an interesting picture of the production of "Saturday Evening Post," showing all the technical processes.
- "Making books." 11m. (Ency. Brit.; E.F.V.A.). Teaching notes.  
Elementary.
- "Spotlight on best sellers." 15m. (20th Cent. Fox).  
Information on the essentials of "best sellers," described by "best seller" writers.
- "This is Britain: Love of books." 11m. (C.F.L. UK947).  
The work of William Morris, Eric Gill, Stanley Morison, Sir Francis Meynell and Allen Lane to support the opinion that book-production is an art form.
- See also* "Chapter and verse," under *Book Production*.

#### *Special Equipment.*

- "Introduction to punched cards." 16m. (Powers-Samas, Ltd.).
- "It must be somewhere." 33m. (Remington Rand). Colour.  
A sales film giving an interesting presentation of filing systems.
- "Punched cards pay dividends." 18m. (Powers-Samas, Ltd.).  
Shows in detail how punched cards are used in the Co-operative Society—not so useful as "Introduction to punched cards."
- See also* "Index to Progress," for Adrema Machinery.

#### *Work with Children.*

- "Books for boys and girls." (B.E.F.). (In production).
- "Book-week display." 4m. (B.E.F.). Silent.
- "Their heritage." 8m. (A.A.L.). (Extract from "Index to Progress").

#### *Writing.*

- "History of writing." 25m. (E.F.V.A.).
- See also* "Chapter and verse," under *Book Production*.

### FILMLOOPS.

Probably the most potentially useful visual aid. The purpose of a film-loop is to concentrate and repeat a process or part of a process or procedure to allow an audience (class) to see that process until it has had full chance to register in detail on the minds of the observers. A film-loop can be projected without interruption because it is a continuous band of film.

- "Binding a book." (Dryad). 13 loop films.
- 1 Setting up stitching frame.
  - 2 Setting up stitching frame.
  - 3 Sewing first section.
  - 4 Tying kettle stitch.
  - 5 Tying on new thread.
  - 6 Gluing the back.
  - 7 Cutting the book with plough in press.
  - 8 Rounding.
  - 9 Backing.
  - 10 Making the hollow back.
  - 11 Gluing the cloth.
  - 12 Marking outside papers.
  - 13 Putting on cover paper.
- "Machine (Adrema) production of catalogue cards." (B.E.F.).

"Mobile Library—London." (B.E.F.).

"Mobile Library—Rural." (B.E.F.).

"N.C.L. Procedure." (B.E.F.).

*All silent.*

*Addresses of Distributors:—*

A.A.L.	Hon. Treasurer, Association of Assistant Librarians, Central Library, Croydon, Surrey.
B.E.F.	Beechdale Educational Films, 75b, Arodene Road, London, S.W.
Bolton Evening News	"Bolton Evening News," Bolton, Lancs.
B.I.F.	British Instructional Films, Ltd., Film House, Wardour Street, London, W.C.2.
Can. F.B.	National Film Board of Canada, Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, London, W.1.
C.F.L.	Central Film Library, Government Buildings, Bromyard Avenue, London, W.3.
Common Ground	Common Ground, Ltd., Educational Graphics, 44, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3.
Daily Mail	"Daily Mail," Visual Aids Department, Northcliffe House, London, E.C.4.
Dryad	Messrs. Dryad, Ltd., St. Nicholas Street, Leicester.
Dunn and Wilson, Ltd.	Messrs. Dunn and Wilson, Ltd., Bellevue Bindery, Kerse Lane, Falkirk.
E.F.V.A.	Educational Foundation for Visual Aids, 33, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1.
Educational Productions.	Educational Productions (E.P., Ltd.), 17, Denbigh Street, London, S.W.1.
Ency. Brit.	Encyclopedia Britannica, Ltd., 123, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
Finchley P.L.	Finchley Public Library, 9, Hendon Lane, London, N.3.
Finsbury P.L.	Finsbury Central Library, Skinner Street, London, E.C.1.
Gateway	Gateway Film Productions, 9, Edward Close, St. Albans, Herts.
G.B.	G.B. Film Library, Aintree Road, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex.
Hall and Kay, Ltd.	Messrs. Hall and Kay, Ltd., 50, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
Linotype and Machinery, Ltd.	Linotype and Machinery, Ltd., 21, John Street, London, W.C.1.
NALGO	National Association of Local and Government Officers, 1, York Gate, Regents Park, London, N.W.1.
Nat. Bk. League	National Book League, 7, Albemarle Street, London, W.1.
N.S. Wales P.L., write to	The Secretary, The Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.
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## “Thomas Clearwater”

### LABUNTUR ANNI

By THOMAS MUDDIWATER, *psued.*  
(i.e., T. E. Callander).

IT COMES to us all. The axe is poised when one's children ask “Do you remember when they had stage-coaches?” and it falls with a horrid thud when the *Assistant*, in all charity, finds that normal organic decay has set in. And yet we worn-out three might have been spared the merciless aptitude of that final quotation. Alas, poor Snaith, I knew him well, and now what is he? Shade without colour. Time-honoured Gardner, in a bath-chair of woven straw, is but a paralysed force, with hardly the strength to get to India. And Callander, who came out fighting at ten stone four, is fifteen stone of shapeless form, and bald as a coot into the bargain. Three expended expendables, shuffling quietly but too slowly to the grave, and all their fortune is that Callander has a waiting morgue which will hold all three of them. A painful sight it must be for all the little Clearwaters who must endure another twenty years before, fertilised by normal organic decay, the pages of the T.L.S. blossom with three beautiful advertisements. Doubly painful because, when the glad tidings come, and Bethnal Green, Croydon and Luton ask for new librarians, all the Clearwaters will have become Muddiwaters.

“But why,” my young readers are

asking, “why should *our* Thomas, whose water runs so clear and bright, come to this sad end? Why must he, who at twenty-five promises so much, become shapeless, shady and paralytic at forty-five? What is going to happen to him in these next twenty years that will make our Clearwater but dishwater?” I will tell you, my dears. In the next twenty years, your Thomas is going to learn how many beans make five. He is going to learn about luxury services. He is going to learn from the lips of a hundred councillors that everybody wishes him well but that now is, alas, not the time. He is going to meet politicians and learn their ways. He is going to learn that March brings the budget and May brings the elections. He is going to find out that first things come first, and just where public libraries come in this kind of grading. He is going to learn to catchee monkey, and softly, softly will he tread. He will learn about the group meeting, about ward representation, about the A.M.C. and the ratepayers' associations. He will learn patience, and he will learn that the most superior new brooms have nice soft bristles. He will learn that, when a Reading Room has been open for seventy years, it will take him more than seventy weeks to close it. All this he will learn in the libraries in which he works. Outside them he will learn other interesting and useful things—about the A.A.L. ticket and about L.A. politics. He will become



an examiner, and will learn something of the calibre of the assistant librarian. His careful wife will teach him that a family is raised on a salary, and his tailor will teach him that bills are paid with money and not with annual report covers. He will look back to the 1953 volume of the *Assistant* to the pages where he banded quotations, and when he recalls his pseudonym of the fifties he will perhaps echo Falstaff's page:—

"He said, sir, the water itself was a good healthy water; but for the party that owed it, he might have more diseases than he knew for."

#### TO THOMAS CLEARWATER

You see us only as our youth's cold dregs?

Wan bankrupts who have spent our talent's store?

Time's winged coach has run us off our legs?

You think we doze, not sparkle—trudge, not soar?

Lord love you!, slaves to every brute and bore,

We have to *do*, who only talked of yore.

And if you deem that this the question begs.

Remember—things are not as heretofore:

Off whom could *we*, the mellowing, hope to score?

Glass houses can be irksome; furthermore,

Grandmothers don't teach grandmas to suck eggs.

Stanley Snaith.

Shadows of words long said

And buried in the years between

Rise up in mockery from their couch of lead

For all to say "What might have been?"

We'll not complain; a little blood  
Lets out the humours. Let it be free  
If others stand where we once stood  
The surgeons must the patients be.

Frank M. Gardner.



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## BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

FOSKETT, D. J., *Assistance to readers in lending libraries*. 1952. (James Clarke, 12s. 6d.)

PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP has provided many notable recruits to the ranks of special librarians. So far there is no sign of an adequate return flow, though the demands made on librarians in industry are such as to inculcate a sense of urgency and responsibility which their colleagues in public service so desperately need and so often lack. We must be the more grateful therefore when a former "public" librarian, now transferred to industry, elects to re-examine aspects of the public service in the light of his wider experience. Mr. Foskett puts his finger unerringly on many weaknesses, and has the ability to make us see how very weak they are; and he puts forward a plan for a readers' advisory service which, though it may provoke disagreement on points of detail, yet must nevertheless make us extremely conscious of, and dissatisfied with, the hit and miss methods which more usually prevail. He argues logically and forcefully for the dissociation of the enquiry desk from the counter, and its recognition as the true focal point of the library service. Such a situation has already come about here and there, and this book must help to accelerate the development.

Rather surprisingly, little attention is given to the problem of integrating the lending library enquiry service with that of the reference library, though division into subject departments and Tottenham's "service in depth" are both referred to with apparent approval as pointers to the future. Nor does Mr. Foskett discuss the employment of non-professional staff for routine duties, though some such solution would seem to be a necessary corollary to his (and our) conception of "the true craft of librarianship." Very few other topics are alien to his theme, and though such introductory and background

material as the history of public library development, service to children, and cataloguing theory and practice has its relevance, it does account for more than its share of the book's 141 pages.

A more fundamental distraction, however, is an uncertain sense of audience, resulting, on the one hand, in a carefully reasoned exposition, provoking and demanding equally careful and mature judgment on the part of the reader; and, on the other, in the reiteration of familiar arguments for classified catalogues, adequate annotation, and other practices which could surely have been etched in more lightly.

Mr. Foskett has given us food for much thought, and offers no less than a blue-print for an improved public lending library service. A general improvement on lines such as these is bound to come—is indeed long overdue. The reading of Mr. Foskett's book will contribute in no small measure to bringing it about.

A.C.J.

### FICTION INDEX

Demand for this publication has so far exceeded expectation that the possibility of a reprint is to be considered by the Press and Publications Committee on May 14th.

Every effort will be made to satisfy orders then in hand, and librarians and others who are thinking of ordering further copies are asked to make their requirements known as soon as possible.

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